

## CLAIMS

1. An apparatus comprising:
- a call processor configured to identify a plurality of call tunneling participants participating in a call tunneling session within a conference call session, and to identify third parties within the conference call session not participating in the call tunneling session;
- a call tunneling assistant configured to route communications signals between the call tunneling participants to other call tunneling participants, but not routing the communications signals to the third parties.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the call tunneling assistant routes communications signals between the call tunneling participants through placing a separate call.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the call tunneling assistant routes communications signals through the conference call session.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the call processor ignores communications signals received from the third parties.
5. A method comprising:
- receiving a call tunnel request from an initiating party within a conference call session, the call tunnel request identifying at least one receiving party;
- routing communications signals between the initiating party and the receiving party as a call tunneling session, and not routing communications signals to other

- 6 conference call parties when the receiving party agrees to the call tunnel  
7 request.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the routing of communication signals  
2 between the initiating party and the receiving party is accomplished through  
3 placing a separate call.
- 1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the routing of communication signals  
2 between the initiating party and the receiving party is accomplished through  
3 the conference call session.
- 1 8. The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
2 muting third party communication signals within the call tunneling session.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the initiating party or the receiving party  
2 mutes the third party communication signals through ignoring third party  
3 signals.
- 1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein third party communication signals are muted  
2 because third party stops sending the third party communication signals.
- 1 11. The method of claim 5, wherein the receiving party is a participant of the  
2 conference call session.
- 1 12. The method of claim 5, wherein the receiving party is not a participant of the  
2 conference call session.
- 1 13. A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and  
2 instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:  
3 receive a call tunnel request from an initiating party within a conference call session,  
4 the call tunnel request identifying at least one receiving party;

5 route communications signals between the initiating party and the receiving party as a  
6 call tunneling session, and not routing communications signals to other  
7 conference call parties when the receiving party agrees to the call tunnel  
8 request.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further encoded with data and  
2 instructions, wherein the routing of communication signals between the  
3 initiating party and the receiving party is accomplished through placing a  
4 separate call.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the routing of  
2 communication signals between the initiating party and the receiving party is  
3 accomplished through the conference call session.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, the instructions further  
2 comprising:

3 muting third party communication signals within the call tunneling session.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the initiating party or  
2 the receiving party mutes the third party communication signals through  
3 ignoring third party signals.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein third party  
2 communication signals are muted because third party stops sending the third  
3 party communication signals.

1 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the receiving party is a  
2 participant of the conference call session.

1        20.    The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the receiving party is  
2                not a participant of the conference call session.

1        21.    An apparatus comprising:  
2                means for receiving a call tunnel request from an initiating party within a conference  
3                call session, the call tunnel request identifying at least one receiving party;  
4                means for routing communications signals between the initiating party and the  
5                receiving party as a call tunneling session, and not routing communications  
6                signals to other conference call parties when the receiving party agrees to the  
7                call tunnel request.

1        22.    The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the routing of communication signals  
2                between the initiating party and the receiving party is accomplished through  
3                placing a separate call.

1        23.    The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the routing of communication signals  
2                between the initiating party and the receiving party is accomplished through  
3                the conference call session.

1        24.    The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:  
2                means for muting third party communication signals within the call tunneling session.

1        25.    A method comprising:  
2                identifying call tunneling participants participating in a call tunneling session within a  
3                conference call, and third parties in the conference call not participating in the  
4                call tunneling session;

5 routing communications signals from the call tunneling participants to other call  
6 tunneling participants, but not routing the communications signals to third  
7 parties.

1 26. A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and  
2 instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:  
3 identifying call tunneling participants participating in a call tunneling session within a  
4 conference call, and third parties in the conference call not participating in the  
5 call tunneling session;

6 routing communications signals from the call tunneling participants to other call  
7 tunneling participants, but not routing the communications signals to third  
8 parties.

1 27. An apparatus comprising:  
2 means for identifying call tunneling participants participating in a call tunneling  
3 session within a conference call, and third parties in the conference call not  
4 participating in the call tunneling session;  
5 means for routing communications signals from the call tunneling participants to  
6 other call tunneling participants, but not routing the communications signals  
7 to third parties.